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2 June 1997
ENGLISH
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Fifty-second session
Items 42, 81, 88 and 99 of
the preliminary list*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 29 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the congratulatory message from the President of the Russian Federation B. N. Yeltsin to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Day, the 34th anniversary of the founding on 25 May 1963 of the Organization of African Unity (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 42, 81, 88 and 99 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/52/50.

97-14636 (E) 040697 040697

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ANNEX

Congratulatory message sent on 25 May 1997 by the President of the Russian Federation to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of the African countries

On the occasion of Africa Day, which symbolizes the start of Africa's journey along the path of free and independent development, I extend my sincere and cordial congratulations to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of the African countries.

The increasing participation of African States in world affairs and their positive contribution to strengthening international and regional security are welcomed in the Russian Federation, which has long-standing traditions of good relations and cooperation with Africa.

We follow the varied activities of the Organization of African Unity, which incarnates the collective wisdom of the African community, with constant interest and attention. We support its efforts to coordinate the activities of the countries of the continent with a view to ensuring sustainable development and broader mobilization of their potential and resources. We are satisfied to note the positive trends in the sphere of political and economic transformations and the establishment of integration mechanisms.

In the Russian Federation we are deeply moved by the pain and the suffering inflicted on African peoples by the remaining flashpoints in the continent. We consequently advocate an early peaceful settlement of the conflicts and are firmly committed to continuing our active role in international peacemaking efforts with a view to eliminating sources of tension in Africa. We welcome the steps to consolidate peace and security and to create effective instruments for responding to crises in the region.

The development of relations with African States is an important component of the Russian Federation's foreign policy. We believe that our feelings of friendship and mutual sympathy, which have stood the test of time, constitute a good basis for consolidating political dialogue in a new context through joint efforts, and for promoting diverse and mutually beneficial relations in the interests of our countries and peoples, and for the sake of peace and international cooperation.

I wish the friendly peoples of Africa happiness, prosperity, well-being and success in addressing the considerable tasks which they face on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

(Signed) Boris YELTSIN

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Fifty-second session
Item 82 of the preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands
to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14624 (E) 030697 030697

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ANNEX

[Original: English]

Statement on the transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union was encouraged by the fact that the change in Government in Kinshasa took place without widespread fighting. In this context it recalls the untiring diplomatic efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and African countries, in particular South Africa, as well as those of the European Union Special Envoy, to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. At the same time, it regrets the loss of life which occurred throughout the conflict.

The European Union expresses the hope that the transitional Government will be as broadly based as possible so as to encompass the political aspirations of all the people of the country. The European Union looks forward to the implementation of President Kabila's commitments to convene a constituent assembly within 60 days and to hold elections within two years. the Union restates its willingness to support the democratization process leading to free and fair elections, which should bring lasting peace, stability and prosperity for all the people of the country.

The transitional Government has the responsibility for promoting reconciliation between all the people of the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this regard, respect for human rights and commitment to democracy will be essential.

The Union recalls that the new authorities are responsible for security throughout the country, including the protection and dignified treatment of refugees, large numbers of whom remain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is important that the humanitarian organizations have full and unrestricted access to them. The Union attaches importance to the implementation of Mr. Kabila's earlier commitments in this regard and urges him to ensure that there is full respect for international humanitarian law, and to ensure the safety of humanitarian aid workers.

The European Union regrets that the investigative mission of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights was prevented from visiting the country. It urges the new authorities to allow the United Nations to carry out its work in relation to human rights as a matter of urgency and to guarantee it unhindered access to all the regions it wishes to visit.

It is on this basis, and bearing in mind the huge problems of rehabilitation, as well as of economic and social reconstruction of the country, that the Union hopes to develop its relations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help its people pursue their legitimate aspirations.

A Presidency-led mission, including the Commission and the European Union Special Envoy, will convey the Union's views to the new authorities and, in the light of their visit, recommend appropriate next steps, including at the political level, to promote the European Union's objectives in the region.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on Sierra Leone issued on 28 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands
to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14603 (E) 020697 020697

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Sierra Leone issued on 28 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union deplores the current attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone and strongly urges the restoration of democratic civilian government. The European Union is deeply concerned at the level of violence against both local and foreign communities.

The European Union expresses the hope that the peace process will be continued after constitutional order has been restored.

The associated countries of Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.

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Item 38 of the preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the parliamentary elections in Yemen issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14754 (E) 040697 040697

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the parliamentary elections in Yemen issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union congratulates the people and Government of Yemen on the free and fair parliamentary elections that took place on 27 April. The Union takes note of the statement made by the joint international observers group in which the Union is proud to have participated. The high turnout of the voters and the commitment shown by all those involved in the elections show the desire of the people of Yemen to participate actively and directly in the process of building a free and democratic society.

It is the hope of the European Union that the new parliament will play a leading role in this process of consolidating democracy in Yemen.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the Union, and the associated country Cyprus, align themselves with this statement.

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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the referendum in Slovakia issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14760 (E) 040697 040697

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the Slovak referendum

The European Union wishes to express its concern regarding the events accompanying the holding of a referendum on both membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and direct presidential elections in Slovakia on 23 and 24 May 1997.

The European Union has noted the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the compatibility of the referendum on direct presidential elections with the Slovak Constitution and regrets the lack of proper follow-up by the responsible Slovak authorities. The European Union has also noted the conclusions of the Central Referendum Committee declaring that the referendum has not been carried out according to the law and has taken note of the resignation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pavol Hamzik.

The European Union continues to take a close interest in events in Slovakia as a country which has a Europe Agreement, including a perspective of accession, and calls upon the Government of Slovakia to respect the rule of law and the principles necessary for strengthening a democratic society.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its sixty-third session, held in Riyadh on 31 May 1997 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 37, 53 and 148 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser Bin Hamad AL-KHALIFA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

97-14819 (E) 090697 090697

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ANNEX

Press communiqué issued on 31 May 1997 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Gulf States

The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held its sixty-third regular session on Saturday, 25 Muharram A.H. 1418 (31 May 1997) at the headquarters of its secretariat in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman; and

His Excellency Abd al-Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also attended.

The Ministerial Council studied developments in the joint cooperation process and political and security situations and issues at regional and international levels since its sixty-second session, held in March 1997.

Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Ministerial Council discussed developments in Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait. The Ministerial Council reaffirmed its absolute and unwavering belief in Iraq's obligation to comply with all the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular those pertaining to the release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and detainees; cooperate fully with the Special Commission in its investigation of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction; return all public and private property to Kuwait; continue to comply fully with the compensation mechanism; and refrain from all hostile or provocative acts directed against Kuwait and neighbouring States, pursuant to resolution 949 (1994).

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the improvement in the living and health conditions of the fraternal Iraqi people and the alleviation of their suffering resulting from the implementation of the "oil for food" Security Council resolution 986 (1995).

The Ministerial Council reaffirmed the willingness of its member States to continue to provide absolute support for the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission in uncovering Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and called upon the international community to do likewise. It expressed its appreciation of the sterling endeavours of Mr. Rolf Ekéus during his chairmanship of the Commission, and welcomed Mr. Butler, his replacement as Chairman, wishing him every success in his work.

The incursion into Iraqi territory by Turkish forces

Pursuant to the positions adopted by States members of the Council, founded on the obligation to preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of Iraq, the Council expressed its profound disquiet with respect to recent Turkish military operations and the incursion into northern Iraq, the repercussions of these developments on security and stability in the region and the threat they posed to international peace and security. The Ministerial Council called upon the Turkish Government to pull back its forces to a position outside Iraq's international borders and to refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of that country.

The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

(a) The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Ministerial Council studied developments in the matter of the occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates. The Council noted that the Iranian Government continued to implement measures aimed at consolidating its occupation of the three islands, carrying to extremes the policy of using force to impose the status quo. This represents a determination to proceed with its unjustified and provocative actions. The Council reiterated its deep regret at the continuing failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the repeated sincere and serious invitations to seek a solution to this issue by peaceful means offered by the United Arab Emirates and regional and international organizations and groups. The Ministerial Council expressed its disapproval of the successive measures taken by Iran in the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and its continuing concern as to the results of the Iranian Government's extremism in pursuing the policy of using force to impose the status quo in the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, in violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and in encroachment of the latter's rights in these islands. Peace and security in the region are threatened thereby, and the principles and precepts of international law and the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference completely disregarded, together with the principles of good-neighbourliness and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region.

The Council reaffirmed the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all the peaceful measures being taken to recover its sovereignty

over these islands. The Council reiterated its appeal to the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three islands, suspend its policy of using force to impose the status quo, halt construction of all Iranian installations on the islands intended to alter the demographic structure and remove any existing installations, annul any unilateral decisions already imposed on the three islands and employ peaceful means to resolve the conflict over them in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, which would include accepting that the matter could be dealt with by the International Court of Justice.

(b) Relations with Iran

The Ministerial Council discussed recent developments in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the basis of its firm position that it wishes to build stable relations with Iran based on good-neighbourliness, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs, and in the light of the outcome of the Iranian presidential elections, the Council expresses its hope that the coming period will witness a positive development in relations between States members of the Council and Iran and trusts that the Islamic Republic of Iran will take palpable steps along the proper path towards building confidence and establishing relations between the two sides, which will achieve the security, stability, welfare and prosperity of the peoples of the region.

The peace process in the Middle East

The Ministerial Council observed with great concern the continuing deadlock and deterioration of the peace process in the Middle East and the growing danger of its imminent breakdown as a result of the arbitrary policies and provocative practices pursued by the Israeli Government, with its insistence on building a new settlement in Jerusalem, expanding settlements in the occupied Arab territories and reneging on its commitments relating to the implementation of agreements signed with the Palestinian Authority. On the basis of its well-known, firm position, the Ministerial Council reaffirms its condemnation of the irresponsible policies and illegal practices of the Israeli Government and affirms that in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel, Israel must adhere to the spirit and the letter of all the agreements that have been signed and accept as fully binding the authority of the Madrid peace mechanism, the principle of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978), to ensure the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, to enable the Palestinian people to exercise all its national rights, including the right to the establishment of an independent State in its own national territory with Jerusalem as its capital, and to ensure full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, southern Lebanon and western Bekaa.

The Council reiterated its call to the administration of the United States of America to make additional efforts and show effective leadership that reflects its firm commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, thereby maintaining its role as sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East in accordance with the foundations, principles and guarantees agreed

at the Madrid Peace Conference on the Middle East, as well as with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Council also expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt to salvage the peace process and to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, as well as for the efforts of the European Union with its ten-point peace plan to move the peace process forward out of the deadlock and acute crisis which it is experiencing.

The Council also affirmed the need for Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to place all its nuclear installations under the international inspection regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Progress made in joint work

The Ministerial Council considered the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation, the Committee of Ministers of Communications, the Committee of Ministers for the Environment and the Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports, together with the conclusions of the meeting of the Supreme Council for the follow-up of resolutions on joint defence and military cooperation aimed at strengthening cooperation among States members of the Council and at adopting the necessary recommendations and resolutions.

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Fifty-second session
Item 82 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 27 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14766 (E) 050697 050697

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 27 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union*

The European Union reiterates its support for the proposed four-party talks on the subject of the Korean Peninsula, bringing together the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. The European Union expresses its strong desire that North Korea should engage in the four-party talks as soon as possible.

In addition, the European Union points out that the North-South dialogue constitutes another necessary precondition for détente on the Korean Peninsula.

Finally, the European Union wishes to emphasize that, in recent years in the humanitarian field, it has significantly contributed to alleviating the plight of the North Korean population.

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* The present statement is being issued as received. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

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Fifty-second session
Item 114 (c) of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Myanmar/Burma issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 114 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-14772 (E) 050697 050697

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Myanmar issued on 30 May 1997
by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is gravely concerned at the continuing deterioration of the political situation in Myanmar/Burma, in particular the increasing repression of the population, and the arrests and detention of members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), related to the celebration on 27 May last of the anniversary of the 1990 elections. These actions constitute a further flagrant breach of fundamental freedoms and human rights. The European Union is of the view that it is the legitimate right of any legal political party to assemble peacefully and to discuss matters of common interest.

The European Union urges the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to immediately and unconditionally release those NLD members who are still detained, as well as all other political prisoners.

In this respect, the European Union recalls its common position as well as its earlier statements on Myanmar/Burma and calls upon SLORC to enter into a meaningful and substantive dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other representatives of pro-democracy groups, as well as with national minorities to restore democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to bring about national reconciliation.

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5 June 1997

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Fifty-second session
Item 81 of the preliminary list*

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine to the United Nations have the honour to transmit the joint communiqué of the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, adopted at Tallinn on 27 May 1997 (see annex).

The Permanent Representatives should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed)
Trivimi VELLISTE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic
of Estonia

(Signed)
Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic
of Latvia

(Signed)
Oskaras JUSYS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic
of Lithuania

(Signed)
Zbigniew M. WLOSOWICZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Poland

(Signed)
Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Ukraine

* A/52/50.

97-15120 (E) 060697 090697

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ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, adopted at Tallinn on 27 May 1997

On 27 May 1997, the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine met in Tallinn to discuss issues of common interest, including bilateral and regional cooperation, European integration and security.

The Presidents discussed the need to strengthen participation in all efforts to create a stable, secure, integrated and indivisible Europe in which no country threatens another and stressed that each State has the right to choose the means to ensure its own security, including treaties of alliance, which is one of the main principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Presidents reiterated their common position that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) should remain open for all countries aspiring for membership in that organization and that these countries will be invited to join the Alliance upon their readiness to fulfil the requirements of membership. The Presidents will work together to enhance cooperation in the framework of the Partnership for Peace in order to better address the new security challenges facing all of Europe.

The Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the signing on the same day in Paris of the Founding Act on bilateral cooperation and security between NATO and the Russian Federation (A/52/161-S/1997/413, appendix). In their view, the Founding Act enhances mutual confidence, security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

The Presidents stressed the importance of an agreement on cooperation between NATO and Ukraine to be signed during the NATO summit in Madrid. The Presidents noted that that document will be one of the key factors in ensuring European stability.

The Presidents shared the goal of integration into European structures and the strengthening of political and economic relations with the European Union with the goal of future membership.

The Presidents declared their willingness to develop friendly and constructive relations with their neighbours as well as with other countries, thus contributing to the stability, prosperity and democratic development of the region and of the whole of Europe.

The Presidents viewed the further intensification of north-south European economic cooperation, as well as improved cooperation between regional organizations, which would help accelerate the pace of regional economic development, as corresponding to the interests of all parties. The Presidents considered that a more effective utilization of existing infrastructure and unhindered transit/transportation would allow the full realization of potential trade and investment.